AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1-15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended) A system for reducing speckle contrast in a single ~~energy~~ laser pulse, comprising:

a plurality of beamsplitters oriented to receive said laser pulse and split said laser pulse into a plurality of laser pulses; and

a plurality of optical delay elements oriented to delay at least one of said plurality of pulses, wherein said optical delay elements cause said plurality of laser pulses to contact a target at predetermined relative times;

wherein said beamsplitters~~, reflective surfaces,~~ and optical delay elements are oriented to provide said plurality of pulses to said target at varying angular offsets.

Claim 17. (first occurrence; currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein:

said at least one beamsplitter comprises two beamsplitters; and

said at least one optical delay elements comprises five reflective surfaces; and

~~said at least one loss compensator comprises two loss compensators;~~

wherein said arrangement is oriented to cause four pulses to strike said target at different times.

Claim 17 (second occurrence; currently canceled)

Claim 18. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements comprise at least one TIR surface and at least one AR surface.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements comprises at least one reflective surface oriented to utilize Brewster's angle.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements employs a plurality of prisms oriented such that light energy pulses make multiple passes between said prisms prior to exiting said optical delay elements.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The system of claim 16, wherein said system causes four pulses to contact said target at four different times.

Claim 22. (previously presented) A system for reducing speckle contrast in in a single energy pulse, comprising:

a grating oriented at a predetermined angle relative to said light energy pulse generator such that receipt and transmission of a pulse received by said grating delays a first portion of said pulse relative to a second portion of said pulse; and

a target for receiving said first portion of said pulse at a first time and said second portion of said pulse at a second time.

Claim 23. (currently amended) The system of claim 22 where the grating is used in combination with a light pipe or lens array to create an ~~overlaping~~ overlapping of different spatial locations on the beam.

Claims 24-32. (currently canceled)

Claim 33. (new) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements comprises a plurality of prisms for receiving light energy and redirecting light energy in a predetermined manner thereby causing delay of application of said pulses to said target.

Claim 34. (new) The system of claim 16, wherein said beamsplitters redirect said laser pulses toward said optical delay elements, and wherein said optical delay elements are positioned varying distances from said beamsplitters to vary delay of said laser pulses.

Claim 35 (new) The system of claim 16, wherein said optical delay elements comprise reflective surfaces oriented at staggered distances from said beamsplitters.

Claim 36. (new) A system for reducing speckle contrast during inspection of a target, comprising:

at least one beamsplitter oriented to receive an energy pulse and split said energy pulse into a plurality of energy pulses; and

at least one optical delay element oriented to delay at least one of said plurality of energy pulses;

wherein each beamsplitter and optical delay element is oriented to provide said plurality of pulses to the target at different times and varying angular offsets, thereby reducing speckle contrast of an image of the target.

Claim 37. (new) The system of claim 36, wherein each optical delay element is staggered in distance from a corresponding beamsplitter, thereby producing a staggered set of time delays for each pulse directed toward one beamsplitter.

Claim 38. (new) The system of claim 36, wherein said at least one optical delay elements comprises a plurality of reflective surfaces.

Claim 39. (new) The system of claim 37, wherein said at least one optical delay elements comprises a plurality of reflective surfaces.

Claim 40. (new) The system of claim 36, wherein said at least one optical delay element comprises at least one TIR surface and at least one AR surface.

Claim 41. (new) The system of claim 16, wherein said at least one optical delay element comprises at least one reflective surface oriented to utilize Brewster's angle.

Claim 42. (new) The system of claim 36, wherein said optical delay elements employs a plurality of prisms oriented such that light energy pulses make multiple passes between said prisms prior to exiting said optical delay elements.